

Synchronization in Random Geometric Graphs

Mixed Local and Nonlocal Operators: Analytical, Numerical and Probabilistic Perspectives (MiLNE Congress)

Cecilia De Vita

November 28, 2025 — Buenos Aires, Argentina

Introduction

Introduction

Kuramoto Model (mean field version)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} u^n(t, x_i) &= \omega_i + \frac{K}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)) \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= u_0^n(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Kuramoto Model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)) \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= u_0^n(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Introduction

Kuramoto Model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)) \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= u_0^n(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Initial question

Synchronization or patterns?

Known results

Known results

- Complete graph $\rightarrow$ Synchronizes ✓
(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

Known results

- Complete graph $\rightarrow$ Synchronizes $\checkmark$

(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

- Erdős-Renyi Graph $G(n, p)$ with $p \geq \frac{(1+\epsilon)\log n}{n} \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Kassabov, Souza, Strogatz, Townsend - 2022)

Known results

- Complete graph $\rightarrow$ Synchronizes $\checkmark$

(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

- Erdős-Renyi Graph $G(n, p)$ with $p \geq \frac{(1+\epsilon)\log n}{n} \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Kassabov, Souza, Strogatz, Townsend - 2022)

- Random Geometric Graphs on $\mathbb{S}^d$ where $d \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Invernizzi - 2022)

Known results

- Complete graph $\rightarrow$ Synchronizes $\checkmark$

(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

- Erdős-Renyi Graph $G(n, p)$ with $p \geq \frac{(1+\epsilon)\log n}{n} \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Kassabov, Souza, Strogatz, Townsend - 2022)

- Random Geometric Graphs on $\mathbb{S}^d$ where $d \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Invernizzi - 2022)

- Wiley-Strogatz-Girvan networks (k -nn in the cycle) $\rightarrow$ If $k < 0.34n$ there is no synchronization $\times$

(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

Known results

- Complete graph $\rightarrow$ Synchronizes $\checkmark$

(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

- Erdős-Renyi Graph $G(n, p)$ with $p \geq \frac{(1+\epsilon)\log n}{n} \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Kassabov, Souza, Strogatz, Townsend - 2022)

- Random Geometric Graphs on $\mathbb{S}^d$ where $d \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty \rightarrow$ Synchronizes with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $\checkmark$

(Abdalla, Bandeira, Invernizzi - 2022)

- Wiley-Strogatz-Girvan networks (k -nn in the cycle) $\rightarrow$ If $k < 0.34n$ there is no synchronization $\times$

(Wiley, Strogatz, Girvan - 2006)

- Random Geometric Graphs on $\mathbb{T}^d \rightarrow$ the scaling limit of the Kuramoto model is the heat equation $\times$

(Cirelli, Groisman, Huang, Vivas - 2025)

Random Geometric Graphs (RGGs)

Random Geometric Graphs (RGGs)

Let M be a Riemannian manifold, and let $\epsilon_n = \epsilon(n)$ satisfy certain conditions.

Random Geometric Graphs (RGGs)

Let M be a Riemannian manifold, and let $\epsilon_n = \epsilon(n)$ satisfy certain conditions.

Definition (RGG on M)

A Random Geometric Graph on M with parameter ϵ_n is $G_n = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$, where:

- $\mathcal{V} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq M$ is a set of n i.i.d. random points uniformly distributed on M ;
- $e = \{x_i, x_j\} \in \mathcal{E} \iff d(x_i, x_j) < \epsilon_n$.

Case $M = \mathbb{S}^1$

Case $\mathbf{M} = \mathbb{S}^1$

Kuramoto Model

$$(\star) \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{\pi}{n^2 \epsilon_n^3} \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)), \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= \bar{u}(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Case $\mathbf{M} = \mathbb{S}^1$

Kuramoto Model

$$(\star) \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{\pi}{n^2 \epsilon_n^3} \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)), \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= \bar{u}(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Kuramoto Model (Gradient system)

If

$$E_n(u^n) = E_n(u_1^n, u_2^n, \dots, u_n^n) = \frac{\pi}{2n^2 \epsilon_n^3} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \sim i} \left(1 - \cos(u_j^n - u_i^n) \right),$$

then

$$\frac{d}{dt} u^n = -\nabla E_n(u^n).$$

Geometry of the space $\mathbb{T}^n$

Geometry of the space $\mathbb{T}^n$

Definition (Index - continuous case)

For a continuous function $u : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $u(2\pi) = u(0) + 2q\pi$, we define its index by $I(u) = q$.

Geometry of the space $\mathbb{T}^n$

Definition (Index - continuous case)

For a continuous function $u : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $u(2\pi) = u(0) + 2q\pi$, we define its index by $l(u) = q$.

Definition (Index - discrete case)

For each $\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{T}^n : z_{j+1} \neq -z_j, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$, we define its index by

$$l(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_{j+1} \ominus \theta_j.$$

Geometry of the space $\mathbb{T}^n$

Definition (Index - continuous case)

For a continuous function $u : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $u(2\pi) = u(0) + 2q\pi$, we define its index by $l(u) = q$.

Definition (Index - discrete case)

For each $\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{T}^n : z_{j+1} \neq -z_j, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$, we define its index by

$$l(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_{j+1} \ominus \theta_j.$$

We have the decomposition

$$\mathbb{T}^n = \bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} K_q \cup \left(\bigcup_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} \partial K_q \right).$$

Case $M = \mathbb{S}^1$

Case $M = \mathbb{S}^1$

Theorem

In the regime

$$n\epsilon_n^2 \rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{n\epsilon_n}{\log n} \rightarrow \infty, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

it holds that

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}((\star) \text{ has an asymptotically stable equilibrium with index } q) = 1$

for each $q \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof (sketch)

Proof (sketch)

For each $q \in \mathbb{Z}$, $E_n|_{K_q}$ has a minimum with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof (sketch)

For each $q \in \mathbb{Z}$, $E_n|_{K_q}$ has a minimum with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

I) $\overline{K_q}$ compact + E_n continuous $\Rightarrow$ there is a minimum in $\overline{K_q}$.

Proof (sketch)

For each $q \in \mathbb{Z}$, $E_n|_{K_q}$ has a minimum with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

I) $\overline{K_q}$ compact + E_n continuous $\Rightarrow$ there is a minimum in $\overline{K_q}$.

II) Proposition: If $u \in C^2([0, 2\pi], \mathbb{R})$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n(u) = \frac{1}{12\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |u'(x)|^2 dx, \quad \text{in probability.}$$

Proof (sketch)

For each $q \in \mathbb{Z}$, $E_n|_{K_q}$ has a minimum with high probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

I) $\overline{K_q}$ compact + E_n continuous $\Rightarrow$ there is a minimum in $\overline{K_q}$.

II) Proposition: If $u \in C^2([0, 2\pi], \mathbb{R})$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n(u) = \frac{1}{12\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |u'(x)|^2 dx, \quad \text{in probability.}$$

III) The following limit holds:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{\theta \in \partial K_q} E_n(\theta) = +\infty \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

Case $M = \mathbb{S}^2$

Case $\mathbf{M} = \mathbb{S}^2$

Kuramoto Model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{4\pi}{c_2 \epsilon_n^2 n} \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)), \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= u_0^n(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Case $\mathbf{M} = \mathbb{S}^2$

Kuramoto Model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{4\pi}{c_2 \epsilon_n^2 n} \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)), \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= u_0^n(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Heat Equation on the sphere

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}u(t, x) &= \kappa \Delta_{\mathbb{S}^2} u(t, x) \\ u(0, x) &= u_0(x), \end{cases}$$

where $\Delta_{\mathbb{S}^2}$ denotes the Laplace-Beltrami operator on $\mathbb{S}^2$ and

$$\kappa := \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \|z\|^2 1_{\{\|z\|^2 < \epsilon_n\}} dz.$$

Remark: Here we consider u as an $\mathbb{S}^1$ -valued function.

Case $M = \mathbb{S}^2$

Kuramoto Model

$$(KM) \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} u^n(t, x_i) &= \frac{4\pi}{c_2 \epsilon_n^2 n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \sim i} \sin(u^n(t, x_j) - u^n(t, x_i)) \\ u^n(0, x_i) &= u_0^n(x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Intermediate Equation

$$(IE) \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} u^{l, \epsilon_n}(t, x) &= \frac{1}{c_2 \epsilon_n^2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} \sin(u^{l, \epsilon_n}(t, y) - u^{l, \epsilon_n}(t, x)) \mathbf{1}_{\{\|x-y\|^2 < \epsilon_n\}} d\sigma(y), \\ u^{l, \epsilon_n}(0, x) &= u_0(x). \end{cases}$$

Heat Equation on the sphere

$$(HE) \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} u(t, x) &= \kappa \Delta_{\mathbb{S}^2} u(t, x) \\ u(0, x) &= u_0(x). \end{cases}$$

Case $M = \mathbb{S}^2$

Case $\mathbf{M} = \mathbb{S}^2$

Theorem (Scaling limit)

Assume that $\epsilon_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\epsilon_n n^2}{\log n} = \infty$. Let $u_0 \in C^{2,\alpha}(\mathbb{S}^2)$ for some $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. If

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{1 \leq i \leq n} |u_0^n(x_i) - u_0(x_i)| > \delta \right) < \infty$$

for every $\delta > 0$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |u^n(t, x_i) - u(t, x_i)| = 0, \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

Case $\mathbf{M} = \mathbb{S}^2$

Theorem (Scaling limit)

Assume that $\epsilon_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\epsilon_n n^2}{\log n} = \infty$. Let $u_0 \in C^{2,\alpha}(\mathbb{S}^2)$ for some $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. If

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{1 \leq i \leq n} |u_0^n(x_i) - u_0(x_i)| > \delta \right) < \infty$$

for every $\delta > 0$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |u^n(t, x_i) - u(t, x_i)| = 0, \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

Theorem (Synchronization)

Let A_n be the event that equation **(KM)** with initial condition u_0^n achieves phase synchronization. Then,

$$\mathbb{P}(A_n \text{ occurs for all } n \text{ large enough}) = 1.$$

Proof (sketch)

Proof (sketch)

I) Let $\iota = \iota(u_0) := \frac{1}{\sigma(\mathbb{S}^2)} \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} u_0(x) d\sigma(x)$. There exists $T > 0$ such that

$$\|u(T, \cdot) - \iota\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{S}^2)} < \pi/8.$$

Proof (sketch)

I) Let $\iota = \iota(u_0) := \frac{1}{\sigma(\mathbb{S}^2)} \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} u_0(x) d\sigma(x)$. There exists $T > 0$ such that

$$\|u(T, \cdot) - \iota\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{S}^2)} < \pi/8.$$

II) There exists a set $\tilde{\Omega}$ with $\mathbb{P}(\tilde{\Omega}) = 1$ such that

$$\max_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} |u^n(T, x_i) - u^n(T, x_j)| < \pi/2$$

for n large enough.

Proof (sketch)

I) Let $\iota = \iota(u_0) := \frac{1}{\sigma(\mathbb{S}^2)} \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} u_0(x) d\sigma(x)$. There exists $T > 0$ such that

$$\|u(T, \cdot) - \iota\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{S}^2)} < \pi/8.$$

II) There exists a set $\tilde{\Omega}$ with $\mathbb{P}(\tilde{\Omega}) = 1$ such that

$$\max_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} |u^n(T, x_i) - u^n(T, x_j)| < \pi/2$$

for n large enough.

III) Let $B_n = \{G_n \text{ is connected}\}$. We have that $\mathbb{P}(B_n^c) \leq \exp(-\sqrt{n})$.

Proof (sketch)

I) Let $\iota = \iota(u_0) := \frac{1}{\sigma(\mathbb{S}^2)} \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} u_0(x) d\sigma(x)$. There exists $T > 0$ such that

$$\|u(T, \cdot) - \iota\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{S}^2)} < \pi/8.$$

II) There exists a set $\tilde{\Omega}$ with $\mathbb{P}(\tilde{\Omega}) = 1$ such that

$$\max_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} |u^n(T, x_i) - u^n(T, x_j)| < \pi/2$$

for n large enough.

III) Let $B_n = \{G_n \text{ is connected}\}$. We have that $\mathbb{P}(B_n^c) \leq \exp(-\sqrt{n})$.

IV) It is known that $\tilde{\Omega} \cap B_n \subseteq A_n$, and by Borel-Cantelli lemma

$$\mathbb{P}\left((\tilde{\Omega} \cap B_n)^c \text{ i.o.}\right) = 0.$$

THANKS! :)